

## THE WAR DAY BY DAY

Fifty Years Ago.

Jan. 11, 1864—Federal Officers in Libby Prison, Despairing of Release Through Exchange, Were Endeavoring to Brighten Their Weary Days with Study and Amusement, While the More Daring Among Them Were Working on a Tunnel by Which to Attempt Escape.

(Written expressly for The Herald.)

Fifty years ago today the Federal officers in Libby Prison, despairing of release through exchange, were endeavoring to brighten their weary days with study and amusement, while the more daring among them were working on a tunnel by which to attempt to escape.

There were more than 100 prisoners in the old Libby warehouse at Cary and Twentieth streets, Richmond. For months there had been no general exchange of prisoners, by which process only the number might be materially diminished. The first halt in exchange had been caused by the refusal of the Confederate government to surrender certain officers who were held in exchange for Gen. John H. Morgan, the cavalry leader and his fellow officers, who were then confined in the Ohio Penitentiary. The Confederate government claimed that Gen. Morgan and his men were be-



PART OF THE INTERIOR OF LIBBY PRISON.

(From a War-time Lithograph in the Massachusetts Loyal Legion Collection.)

This unusual view of one of the prison chambers of Libby was drawn by a Federal officer who had been confined there in 1862.

ing treated as felons and not as prisoners of war, and Col. A. D. Straight of the Fifty-first Indiana Infantry, and his officers were held at Libby Prison as hostages for Morgan and his men.

Gen. Morgan had cleared the situation somewhat by escaping on November 23. Fresh impediments to the exchange of prisoners arose when in December Gen. Benjamin F. Butler was appointed agent of exchange at Fortress Monroe. The Confederate government refused to treat with him on the ground that he was an outlaw, a pirate, and a traitor, and that he had hanged a resident of New Orleans.

This deadlock in the exchange worked great hardship to the officers and men who were held captive by the thousands in the South; far more, he said, to the privates than to the officers.

## Yearning for Liberty.

The inmates of Libby Prison complained of the hardships of their life. They found it hard to believe the statements of their keepers, that they received as good food as was served to Gen. Lee's soldiers and as much of it per man. Their ration of a small loaf of corn bread, four ounces of poor fresh meat, and a handful of rice or peas, a day seemed purgatory to them. The official records showed after the war that at this time Lee's soldiers were getting no more.

The prisoners in Libby were allowed to receive boxes of provision from home. They came irregularly, to be sure, and were sometimes withheld in tantalizing fashion. The Confederates claimed money was concealed in some boxes, and was used to bribe the guards to permit escape. Clothing, and at one time blankets, were received from the Federal government.

The prisoners had enough food, such as it was, to sustain life, and a roof over their heads. Their greatest want was liberty, and nothing could compensate them for the loss of that. They yearned for it as a thirsty man yearns for water. In its absence everything about them that was distressing was magnified and everything that was pleasant was minimized.

tion of Rev. Dr. McCabe, pastor of one of the Richmond churches, who came to the prison to call on a young Ohio chaplain of the same name, who was among the prisoners.

The acquisition of books led to the inauguration of classes for special study among the prisoners.

"The higher branches of learning had their professors," wrote an inmate of the prison, "and the languages, ancient and modern, were taught; mathematics received such attention; morals and religion were cared for in Bible classes; while the ornamental branches, such as dancing, vocal music and the sword exercises had their teachers and pupils."

One officer had a class in French, another in Spanish, another in tactics, another in shorthand. Lectures were delivered on life in foreign countries, on mesmerism, and on temperance, the latter by Col. Neal Dow, of Maine, who, by reason of his moral leadership, was a prominent prisoner.

"But truth must be told," wrote a prisoner, "the minds of many of these grown-up and in some instances gray-headed pupils were not always with their books; their minds when children wandered from the pages before them to the green fields, to streams abounding in fish or pleasant for bathing, or to orchards with fruit most inviting; but now the mind wandered in one direction—home."

It was indeed hard, in the stench, dirt and vermin of the crowded prison, for a man steadily to apply himself to study.

## A Prison "Newspaper."

During the summer of 1863 a "newspaper," the Libby Chronicle, had been "published" in the prison. It was in manuscript form, necessarily. Its editor-in-chief was Louis M. Baudry, chaplain of the Fifth New York Volunteer Cavalry. The manuscript passed from room to room and in each room was read aloud.

After the war this unique newspaper was published in a small volume, which affords a valuable record of the amusements of the prisoners in Libby prison. An early number contained a notice of

the meeting of the "Ligeia-Lee-om," a debating society. One question discussed was: "Resolved, That the fear of punishment has a greater influence upon man than the love of reward."

There was a notice of a sermon, there being preaching every Sunday morning, the nine chaplains confined in the prison taking turns. Another notice was of a lecture by one of the chaplains on "Paul and Silas in the Philippian Prison."

The paper contained some well written articles, full of color and feeling, under the title, "Lights and Shadows in Libby," and on time to time poems and novel essays.

Some of the verse was of prison life and some of home and loved ones. One poem, by the editor, was addressed "To My Wife." Its first and last verses were as follows:

I think of thee when morning light  
Comes struggling 'e'en to see,  
When waking thoughts are visions bright,  
I think of thee, I think of thee.

How sweet the bliss thou thoughtst I felt,  
For then I did think of thee!  
Naught e'er can break this two-fold cord,  
I think of thee, I think of thee.

Amusements in Prison.

One of the entertainments of this period had been a mock trial, at which a "solemn-faced, gray-headed cavalry captain" presided as judge. The prisoner was Capt. John Test, of Reading, Pa., who had a trick of imitating a crying child or barnyard fowl with a realism that was not always appreciated by his

audience. The prisoner was charged with having been a spy, and was found guilty. He was sentenced to be hanged, but was released on parole.

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By this the public is protected, and so are the interests of the police. Once the police attempt to prevent: newspapers from getting the street news, a good case worked upon by detectives is ruined. By this is meant, the reporter is kept on the outside, writes what he can learn from "grapevine" sources, and from what he can pick up together. Sometimes he is it right; sometimes wrong. If he is not trusted he of course prints what he can get. If he gets some good information he prints it. If he was on the "inside" he also would have the same information, but would be trusted with it, and withholds it from the press until the proper time.

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## NEWS GATHERING IN CAPITAL CITY

Ideas of Maj. Sylvester and Indianapolis Police-Man Differ.

CONFIDENCE IS SLOGAN

Usage of Newspaper Men in Washington Compared to that Under Western Chief.

By J. STUART PRICE.

Maj. Richard Sylvester, superintendent of the Metropolitan Police Department, formerly was a newspaper reporter. This, of course, is not news. But Chief of Police Samuel Perrott, of Indianapolis, never was in the pencil pushing business. Hence the Indiana policeman does not get along as well with the newspaper men in that city as does Maj. Sylvester.

The point is this: When Joseph E. Bell was sworn in as mayor of Indianapolis he made Perrott chief of police. One of the first official acts of Chief Perrott was to abolish the "pressroom" at "headquarters," and refused to give out, or permit his men to do so, "stories" until two or three days after they happened. He also withdrew the privilege of reporters accompanying the police on emergency runs. His men were instructed to tell reporters nothing when questioned. In other words, he has thrown every obstacle possible in the way of the men who write police news. He does everything that only three captains of police, the captain of detectives, and "the chief" can discuss newspaper stories with reporters.

Consideration for Public.

Maj. Sylvester runs things differently. He believes in extending every courtesy to the press. He takes the newspaper men into his confidence; they never break it. He trusts them; they appreciate it. Maj. Sylvester also takes the public into consideration in this matter. He realizes the reading public demands police news. He does everything, reasonably possible, to take care of all persons concerned. He has the news given out when it should be. What is the result?

A better understanding between the police and the newspaper exists in Washington. To explain this it is necessary to go into detail.

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will "get his goat" sooner or later, and then he will wonder "why it happened." If the public in Washington does not get the news it is not Maj. Sylvester's fault for he does all he can to help the reporters.

Ever Hear of Such Things?

New York, Jan. 10.—An Italian examined his application for citizenship, said he did not know what a State senator was, but had often seen them in circus.

Jersey City, N. J., Jan. 10.—Educated rate of the holder type outnumber the pupils at public schools. They show traps and cans have failed to evict them. A Fied Piper is wanted at once.

New York, Jan. 10.—"You may like a red hat one time and a white hat another time," is the reply which Mrs. Harry E. O'Conner gave her husband when she asked him if he was attentive to another woman. She asked separation.

Boston, Mass., Jan. 10.—Dr. Arathene B. Drake, eighty-six years old, has asked Probate Court for permission to adopt her housekeeper, Miss Mathilda Bailey, fifty-eight years old, as his daughter.

Washington, Pa., Jan. 10.—Charged with deserting his wife, Daniel Fisher declared she smoked in bed so often that he felt ill; a smoked child, Justice Carmichael said she deserved to be deserted and dismissed his charge.

Austin, Tex., Jan. 10.—A microscopic examination of 11,000 Texas children showed that 43 per cent of them had hookworm.

Jerseysville, Ill., Jan. 10.—Mrs. Christopher Schultz sued for divorce because her seventy-year-old husband would not allow her to keep a cat.

HER BABE 'UNWELCOME,' BUT DENIES MURDER

Woman Tells Pathetic Story of Life, Accusing Her Employer, Wealthy Lawyer.

IS HELD ON MURDER CHARGE

New York, Jan. 10.—Guarded constantly by detectives, whose avowed purpose is to prevent her from ending her own life while she remains a prisoner in the most luxurious room of the Memorial Hospital of Orange, N. J., Miss Melvina Dufresne, the twenty-four-year-old Pittsfield girl, who is charged with strangling her two weeks' old daughter, today told Detective Mason and County Physician McKennie the pathetic story of her life.

She steadfastly denies, weeping at times, but for the most part so calm as to cause alarm for her mental condition, that she is responsible for the death of the babe. Its father, she says, is the man from whom she first sought employment, a respected member of the Berkshire bar.

"It is true that I am not Mrs. Ashley," she told the county officials. My name is Melvina Dufresne. I am a member of a respected family in Lenox, near Pittsfield, Mass., and my mother, father, and sisters are all living. I would not have brought them into this if the world.

"I am twenty-four years old. I left home several years ago to seek employment, although I was a graduate of high school and knew stenography, so that I had no difficulty in obtaining a position with the firm of Lewis & Bennett, a prominent legal concern in Pittsfield.

"Of my relations with my employer I will say nothing, but when I found I was to become a mother, it was decided that I had best come here. I have a sister living in East Orange. I am absolutely innocent. The baby was unwelcome, I know, and my mother, father, and sisters are all living. I would not have brought them into this if the world.

In the death certificate filed in the county records yesterday, the name of the dead child is given as "May Virginia Ashley" and the name of the father as "Joseph W. Lewis."

FIRE THREATENS SHIP AT SEA.

Standard Oil Ship Comet Proceeding Slowly to Port.

New York, Jan. 10.—A leak in the fuel tank of the new Standard Oil steamship Comet in such danger of immediate explosion, imperiling the lives of the crew, today, that Capt. Wheeler ordered his wireless operator, M. Rosenfeld, to send out a distress call. The call was received by several wireless stations on the New England coast, and the revenue cutter Albatross was sent from New Bedford to the tanker's assistance.

A later message to the local Standard Oil offices stated that the fire had been put out, while an attempt to repair the leak was made. This placed the ship at the mercy of the sea and the tug Standard was ordered to put out from Martha's Vineyard to the Comet's assistance, which was at that time off Nantucket Shoals.

The Comet is on her way to Boston and Baton Rouge with a cargo of bulk oil. She was built six months ago at Lorain, Ohio, in the yards of the American Steamboat Company, and is 250 feet long, with 2,400 gross tonnage. She has a crew of twenty-five and carries oil in bulk. She is proceeding slowly to Chatham, Mass.

VISCOUNT BRYCE OF DECHMONT.

Title Taken by Former Ambassador, Elevated to Peerage.

London, Jan. 10.—James Bryce, formerly British Ambassador to the United States, who was raised to the peerage on New Year's Day, has taken the title of Viscount Bryce of Dechmont in Scotland.

FIRE WRECKED TWO HOTELS.

Winnipeg Hostelties Are Prey of Flames.—Loss, \$250,000.

Winnipeg, Manitoba, Jan. 10.—The Iroquois and Manitoba hotels were destroyed by fire today. Loss \$250,000. Guests of both hotels escaped unhurt.

TELLS ABOUT 50,000 BOOKS FREE BY MAIL WORTH \$10 TO ANY MAN

FOR THE HOME CURE OF MEN'S AILMENTS

DR. JES. LISTER & CO. 609 Broadway, N.Y.C.

## TRADE SECTIONS PLAN MEETINGS

Divisions of Retail Merchants' Association Show Activity.

ANNUAL MEETING PLANS

Important Matters to Be Taken Up When Organization Assembles

Evening of January 20.

The Retail Merchants' Association has just passed through one of the busiest weeks of its career, with trade section meetings afternoons and evenings, and the list of meetings for this week indicates that another period of activity is in prospect.

Following are the meetings for the week: Monday—Haberdashery and jewelry sections, 8 p. m.

Tuesday—Piano and musical dealers' section, 12 noon; ladies' garments' section, 8 p. m.

Wednesday—Furriers' trade section, 12 noon.

Thursday—Automobile dealers' trade section, 12 noon; ladies' tailors' and opticians' sections, 8 p. m.

Friday—Coal dealers' trade section, 8 p. m.

These trade section meetings have been called by Secretary Charles J. Columbus in compliance with the constitution and by-laws of the Retail Merchants' Association, which provide that all sections shall meet in advance of the annual meeting. The annual meeting will be held January 20 for the election of a chairman and the transaction of such other business as may be brought before it.

Plans for the Year.

The section meetings held to date have been productive of a great deal of constructive activity on the part of the members of the association, and ambitious plans have been made for the new year. A conference of a number of the credit men of Washington business houses was held at the quarters of the association

Friday afternoon, when a system for the credit bureau of the association was adopted. Supplies for the bureau have been ordered, and it is hoped to have the bureau in practical operation in about a week's time.

At the annual meeting of the Retail Merchants' Association a distinguished speaker will address the merchants. Those who have been elected chairmen of the trade sections will be elected members of the board of governors of the association. Many important matters relating to retail trade here will be considered and a buffet supper will be served.

When President R. P. Andrews returns to Washington Tuesday morning he will appoint a committee for the merchants' get-together dinner, to be given by the association in the near future.

To Attend National Meeting.

Members of the shoe section of the association will represent that body at the convention of the National Shoe Retailers' Association, to be held at the Hotel Astor, New York, tomorrow and Tuesday. In the party that leaves here today will be Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Strasburger, Mr. and Mrs. Harry W. Hahn, Fred and Edwin Hahn, L. L. Crandall, N. S. Spitzer, and Joseph Berberich. Harry W. Hahn will be one of the speakers at the convention banquet.

Letters are reaching the association almost daily indicating great development among similar bodies throughout the country. In the South and Middle West retail merchants' associations seem to be particularly active.

DENTIST'S YANK KILLS MAN.

Tooth Carpenter Falls Out Portion of Jaw with Molar.

Rochester, N. Y., Jan. 10.—U. T. Dubell, a native of Dayton, Ohio, died in Memorial Hospital, Canandaigua, today from shock, resulting, it is said, from the action of a dentist in tearing away a portion of his jaw when he attempted to extract a tooth which had been troubling Dubell.

DIES AS SONS ARE SENTENCED.

Woman Falls Dead in Court Corridor as Trial Ends.